

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EUR-25 DPW-01 AID-20 DRC-01

/172 W

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R 061126Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6511

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 7574

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F O R M R N O N L Y, VICE 5774

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PASSES RESOLUTION IMPLYING
SUPPORT OF AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL

REF: VIENTIANE 7531

1. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENED MORNING NOVEMBER 6, WITH
PRIME MINISTER AGAIN PRESENT, AND PASSED RESOLUTION IMPLY-
ING SUPPORT FOR AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL. DURING WIDE-
RANGING DISCUSSION, DEPUTIES WHOLE-HEARTEDLY ENDORSED
CURRENT EFFECTIVE CEASEFIRE AND EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT
FOR PRIME MINISTER'S EFFORTS TO REACH NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT
AND TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION IN LAOS. SOME
DEPUTIES DID EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT INFLUX OF ARMED LPF
PERSONNEL INTO VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG OR WANTED TO
RESERVE OFFICIAL JUDGEMENT PENDING CLARIFICATION ON OTHER
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STEPS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF PROTOCOL.

2. DURING BRIEF DISCOURSE, PRIME MINISTER EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF ACHIEVING RECONCILIATION IN LAOS. HE RE-ASSURED THE DEPUTIES THAT LPF AND RLG DELEGATIONS TO JCIA HAVE BEEN MEETING INFORMALLY, AND THAT LPF IS PROVIDING ADVANCE INFORMATION ON ARRIVALS OF ITS PERSONNEL. SOUVANNA STATED THAT AS SOON AS THE LPF HAS FORCES SUFFICIENT TO GUARANTEE SECURITY OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN LUANG PRABANG AND VIENTIANE, IT WILL RELEASE THE LIST OF ITS MEMBERS FOR THE NEW PGNU AND THE JNPC.

3. ASSEMBLY THEN VOTED ON TWO RESOLUTIONS, BOTH OF WHICH GAVE GENERAL SUPPORT TO THE AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL. BY A VOTE OF 24-21 DEPUTIES APPRIVED RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY LUANG PRABANG DEPUTY AMPHORNSAVATH. RESOLUTION "ACKNOWLEDGES THE OBJECTIVES" OF FEBRUARY AGREEMENT, ITS IMPLEMENTING PROTOCOL, AND THE NATURE OF THE NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY AND JUSTICE. IT ASSERTS THAT NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT MUST STRICTLY CARRY OUT ITS POLICY TO MAKE LAOS "INDEPENDENT, FREE, AND UNITED;" THAT "ALL PARTIES CONCERNED MUST SINCERELY IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT SO THAT A LASTING PEACE CAN BE MADE WITH THE PROVISIO THAT RULES, REGULATIONS AND LAWS OF THE NATION WILL BE PROTECTED;" AND THAT LAOS "MUST BE REUNITED IN ACCORDANCE WITH FREE DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS BY CONSULTING WITH THE EXISTING POLITICAL PARTIES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY."

4. PRIME MINISTER MIGHT HAVE PREFERRED AVOIDING CLAUSE THAT IN REUNITING LAOS, "EXISTING POLITICAL PARTIES AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MUST BE CONSULTED." THIS PROVISION WAS INSERTED BY DEPUTIES WHO APPARENTLY CONSIDER IT A POSSIBLE LEVER EITHER FOR CONTINUING ASSEMBLY INVOLVMENT WITH AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL OR FOR OBTAINING POSITIONS IN NEW PGNU OR JNPC. HOWEVER, CLAUSE APPEARS TO BE VAGUE ENOUGH SO THAT IT NEED NOT GIVE PRIME MINISTER OR LPF ANY INSUPERABLE DIFFICULTIES. MOST IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT RESOLUTION CLEARLY IMPLIES SUPPORT OF AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL AND, IN THIS SENSE, MAY GIVE THE PRIME MINISTER MEASURE OF CONSTITUTIONAL LEGITIMACY WHICH HE HAS SOUTH IN HIS EFFORTS

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TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT.

5. ASSEMBLY WILL END 1973 SESSION TOMORROW.
WHITEHOUSE

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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